

## December 20, 2015 – Fourth Sunday of Advent



### Stewardship is a way of life.

#### Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

<b>Tithing Income: Dec. 13, 2015:</b>	
Regular:	\$ 5,193.00
Loose:	\$ 1,671.00
<b>Children's Offering:</b>	\$ -0-
<b>ONLINE GIVING:</b>	\$ 855.00
<b>Tithing Income TOTAL For Dec. 13, 2015:</b>	<b>\$ 7,719.00</b>

**Tithing Income: Dec. 14, 2014**                 **\$ 6,925.15**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> Tithe – United Way Energy Bank**

#### Mass Attendance:

**Weekend of December 13, 2015 - 417**

**Weekend of December 14, 2014 - 413**

From Our Pastor: At Sacred Heart, we print comparisons with last year's collection and attendance (in the future, we will at St. Jude, when we're clear of the embezzlement years, for a clearer comparison). I guess that's all ok. I dunno. While not exactly a financial thing, I just think of God telling David "don't take a census!" (cf. 2 Samuel chapter 24). Why not? It doesn't say, but I think that was God saying "let me worry about the numbers. You just do your job and relax. Leave the numbers to me." David takes a census anyway and is punished by God. Comparing the numbers, the performance, from one year to another can drive you crazy. It's like people who follow the stock market too much, moving their investments around every day. You could go nearly insane with that. God says relax. Do your job and leave the numbers to me.

No. It was God identifying with the poor. He would not be born in a palace or mansion, but in a stable, with shepherds (the riffraff of that society) as first witnesses. As the St. Louis Jesuit's hymn says "The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor" (cf. Prov, 21:13).

The Bethlehem-manger account comes from the Gospel of Luke, known for its emphasis on the poor. It is sometimes titled the Gospel of the Poor. St. Luke reports Mary saying about God that "He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree" (Luke 1:52). Luke has Christ quoting from Isaiah 61, "He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor." In Luke Christ tells the story of the rich man and the poor man, Lazarus, with the poor man going to Heaven ("the bosom of Abraham") and the greedy rich man to Hell.

This was all a bit new. Most religions, including the Jewish religion, tended to see riches, prosperity and success as signs of favor from God and poverty and failure as signs of His displeasure and even of divine condemnation (although the Book of Job was written to challenge that view). With the Christmas story – and eventual crucifixion – that's all turned upside down. God not only hears the cry of the poor, but He joins the poor, standing side-by-side with them in their trials and tribulations.

And so, this Christmas, if you are enjoying peace and prosperity, God bless you. If not, God bless you even more. Out of a job? Family/relationship squabbles? Financial trouble? Maybe you're living out the original Christmas story more than you realize. Remember, the Lord hears the cry of the poor.                 **Fr. Bill**

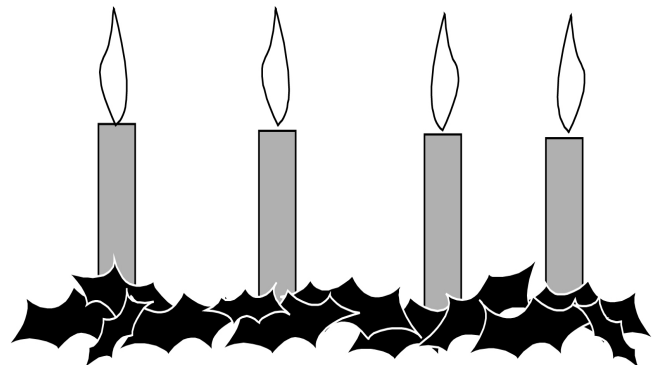
## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### CHRISTMAS: THE LORD HEARS THE CRY OF THE POOR

In this time of economic recession and joblessness, it will be hard for some to celebrate Christmas. It's good to remember that the first Christmas was a response to the cry of the poor.

It really wasn't all that nice back then. We schmaltz it up with those romantic manger scenes and skits and carols. That first night? Forget it. It was cold, it was dirty, they were tired, there was no place to sleep, she was pregnant, about to give birth. This was a panic situation.

The manger was dirty, uncomfortable, with barnyard animals nearby. I could imagine Joseph and Mary wondering: What did we do to deserve this? Isn't this child supposed to be special? Aren't we supposed to be special? Has God abandoned us?



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## December

### Sunday: 12/20/15 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Mass/7:30 & 11am/Church

☆ **Children's Choir Practice/4pm/Choir Loft** ☆

### Monday: 12/21/15:

Mass/7am/Church

### Tuesday: 12/22/15:

Mass/7am/Church

**Adult Choir Rehearsal/7pm/Choir Loft**

### Wednesday: 12/23/15:

★ **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED AT 12 NOON FOR HOLIDAY!!!**

**SHS Early Dismissal 11:30 am for Christmas Break!**

Confessions/6:30pm/Church

Mass/7pm/Church

**Adult Choir/7:30 pm/Choir Loft**

### Thursday: 12/24/15 Christmas Eve:

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** ★

Children's Mass/4pm/Church

Christmas Carols/9:45pm/Church

Christmas Eve Mass/10pm/Church

### Friday: 12/25/15 Christmas Day:

**Parish Office CLOSED**

Christmas Carols/9:45am/Church

Christmas Day Mass/10am/Church

### Saturday: 12/26/15:

Confessions/3pm/Church

Mass/4pm/Church

### Sunday: 12/27/15 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, &

**Joseph:**

Mass/7:30 & 11am/Church

**NO CCD**

### Monday: 12/28/15:

Mass/7am/Church

### Tuesday: 12/29/15:

Mass/7am/Church

### Wednesday: 12/30/15:

Confessions/6:30pm/Church

Mass/7pm/Church

### Thursday: 12/31/15 Mary Mother of God Solemnity:

Mass/5:30 pm/ Sacred Heart Church

Mass/7:30 pm/ St. Jude Church-Mifflintown

## January

### Friday: 01/01/15 Mary Mother of God Solemnity:

Mass/9am/Sacred Heart Church

Mass/11am/St. Jude Church- Mifflintown

### Saturday: 01/02/15:

Confessions/3pm/Church

Mass/4pm/Church

## LITURGICAL NOTES:

Mass Intentions for the Week

### And Weekly Readings

#### **Sunday, December 20**

Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

7:30 AM People of the Parish

11:00 AM Frank Guerrini

#### **Monday, December 21**

Song of Songs 2:8-14; Psalm 33:2-3,11-12,20-21; Luke 1:39-45

7:00 AM Special Intentions of Martin & Patricia McHale

#### **Tuesday, December 22**

1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8; Luke 1:46-56

7:00 AM Anna Kasmak

#### **Wednesday, December 23**

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24; Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9,10 & 14; Luke 1:57-66

7:00 PM Elizabeth Kruchinsky

#### **Thursday, December 24 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-5,16-17,27,29; Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17,22-25 Matthew 1:1-25

4:00 PM People of the Parish

Isiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96:1-3, 11-12,13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

10:00 PM People of the Parish

#### **Friday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1,2-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

10:00 AM People of the Parish

**Saturday, December 26 St. Stephen, First Martyr**  
Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10;754-59; Psalm 31:3-4, 6 & 8,16 & 17; Matthew 10:17-22

4:00 PM Paul Burket

#### **Sunday, December 27 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Psalm 84:2-3,5-6,9-10; 1John 3:1-2,21-24; Luke 2:41-52

7:30 AM George & Isabelle Kruchinsky

11:00 AM People of the Parish

#### **Van Transportation to Mass: The following is the Van schedule:**

Dec 27 - Mel Reed

Jan 03 - Russell Krug

Jan 10 - Dave Kaniecki

**Memorialize Sanctuary Candles:** The following dates are **available:** Cost is \$20. Call the office to make arrangements. **Dates Available:**

The Sanctuary lamp is  
In Loving Memory of  
Elizabeth "Betty" Hackett  
With Love Wayne, Susan, Pattie & Carol

**Memorialize Flowers:** If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (pulpit) please call the parish office to schedule. **The following dates are available:**

*Altar Flowers are:  
In honor & Memory of  
The People of the Parish*

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
National Council of the United States  
Seeking Charity and Justice

ST. Vincent de Paul needs help! They are looking for donations for the small travel size toiletries such as shampoo, toothpaste, shaving cream, deodorant, and baby items, etc....

Due to the Budget impasse and increase in volume in providing help to those in need, St. Vincent de Paul is also in need of donations to keep on helping those who desperately need our help. **Thank you!!**

**Welcoming People With Disabilities So All May Encounter Christ, A Guide for Parishes;** Diocese of Harrisburg. *Tina Stryker, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Advocate for Persons with Disabilities*

**Encountering a Person with a Physical Disability Definition:** A total or partial loss of voluntary movement or an unusual stature that limits a person's ability to move about, reach, grasp, and/or breathe, and is often accompanied by fatigue and weakness that may be seen or unseen. Persons with a physical disability might possess: wheelchairs (manual or powered), scooters, walkers, crutches, canes, braces, casts, prosthesis, and/or portable oxygen tanks. They may display balance problems or shaking, slow or uneven steps, limping, unusually small or large stature, and/or labored breathing. You can maintain eye level contact and talk directly with the parishioner and not through companions. Always ask first if the person needs assistance; do not assume that assistance is always needed. *Do not touch or move assistive equipment without permission.*

**As a parish, we can:**

- Provide accessible parking spaces and routes with curb cuts and ramps.
- Create wide entrances with automatic or easily-opened doors, near accessible parking spaces.
- Install lifts and elevators.
- Have accessible restrooms in all parish facilities.

- Ensure an assessable sanctuary and spaces for worship with access to the sacraments.
- Use adjustable height/tilt ambo, podium, altars and tables.
- Place hymnals and printed materials within easy reach. Exercise caution with the use of open flames in parish facilities.

## COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join Fr. Bill for the **March for Life walk in Washington, DC on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.** **SIGN UP NOW!** We are a little behind on organizing this so we need an accurate count now. This is our annual one day trip all Adults and youth are welcome to attend this event, cost for the event is \$25.00 (all checks should be made out to Sacred Heart of Jesus or St. Jude Thaddeus) Sign- up sheets are in the Church vestibule; please **sign up by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.** Thank you!

**Diocesan Pro-Life Mass and Rosary Procession**  
- The Pro-Life Mass will take place on Sunday January 17, 2016 at Saint Patrick Church, 219 South Beaver Street, York, PA 17401. Mass begins at 10:45 AM. Bishop Ronald W. Gainer will be the celebrant and homilist. Following Mass, there will be a rosary procession from the church to Planned Parenthood. All are welcome!



**Charismatic Workshop with Rev. Stephen DeLacy - "Freedom in God's Mercy"** January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 8am-4pm at the Cardinal Keeler Center, 4800 Union Deposit Rd, Harrisburg PA. Registration \$20.00 per adult/\$10.00 per student includes lunch. Call Lori for information: 717-877-4818 or email: [loriribic@yahoo.com](mailto:loriribic@yahoo.com) Also registration forms are in the Sacred Heart Church Vestibule.

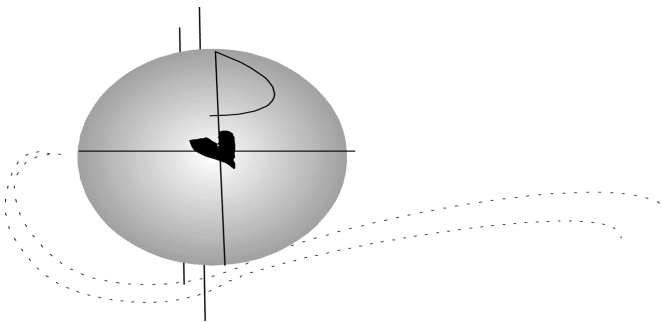


Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy is seeking a **Head Coach for the Girls' Varsity Volleyball program.** Interested applicants should send an email and coaching resumé to SJCA Athletic Director, Chad Walsh at [cwalsh@stjoeacad.org](mailto:cwalsh@stjoeacad.org)

**Diocesan Pro-Life Mass and Rosary Procession**  
 - The Pro-Life Mass will take place on **Sunday January 17, 2016 at Saint Patrick Church, 219 South Beaver Street, York, PA 17401.** Mass begins at 10:45 AM. Bishop Ronald W. Gainer will be the celebrant and homilist. Following Mass, there will be a rosary procession from the church to Planned Parenthood. **All are welcome!**

**It's Your Catholic Connection** – During the day Holy Family Radio AM 720, WHYF announces parish and community events as part of their service to the local Catholic community. Tune in to Catholic Radio for the Diocese of Harrisburg and hear what is going on. The Parish Bulletin Board is sponsored by the Catholic Communication Campaign of the Diocese of Harrisburg. You can also listen on line at [www.720whyf.com](http://www.720whyf.com)

**BROTHER JUNIPER**



**From the Desk of Dr. Maginnis:**

We recently sent out Annual Fund letters asking friends of Sacred Heart School for donations to keep our school in operation for the 64<sup>th</sup> straight year. We are very grateful to have so many alumni and friends who have continued to help over the years! The school would not have been able to operate without the many donations over the years. We ask parishioners to help spread the good word about Sacred Heart with the hope of more students enroll. It is a wonderful school with some of the best students and teachers around. **We thank you all for your continued support. We wish you the holiest and happiest Advent and Christmas season. May they be filled with joy and love of family and friends and may God's blessing be with you in the New Year.**



**Gala tickets on sale now!**

Join us Over the Rainbow for an Enchanted Evening in the Emerald City. **Saturday, February 6, 2016**  
 5:00 PM- 11:00 PM

Lewistown Community Center @ Rec. Park

**Tickets:**

\$50 thru Jan. 17, 2016 / \$60 after Jan. 17, 2016  
 Purchase a table of 8 to receive reserved seating & a complimentary bottle of wine! Door Prizes every hour plus Grab Bags, 50/50's & Raffle Tickets will be available for purchase. **Get your tickets at the school or parish office today!**



**Gala tickets will be on sale after all Sunday masses starting next weekend January 10th through January 30th**

**Attention All Crafters!**

Do you have a unique talent like woodworking, painting, cross-stitching, quilting, etc? If so, we would love to have your handmade donation as part of our growing list of items to be auctioned off at this year's More than an Auction event, scheduled for Sunday, April 24th. Each year, these items have proven to be the most sought after and cherished by our generous bidders. **If you are willing to share your talent with us, please contact Ashley Henry at the Parish Office.**